IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Original) A computerized data file system, comprising:

2   a first process that maintains a data file in computer-readable memory; and

3   a second process that generates a first message requesting that said second process be

4 granted by said first process a plurality of tokens required for said second process to modify

5 at least one characteristic of said file;

6   said first process generating a second message, in response to said first message, that

7 grants said tokens to said first process if said tokens are available for grant to said second

8 process.

1 2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   said first process is resident at a server computer node, and said second process is

3 resident at a client computer node.

1 3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant to said second process as a result of

3 current grant of said tokens to at least one other process, said first process generates a third

4 message revoking the current grant of said tokens to said at least one other process.

1 4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein:

2   said at least one other process, in response to said third message, generates a fourth

3 message making said tokens available for grant by said first process.

1 5. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein:

2   said first process resides in a first computer node;

3   said second process resides in a second computer node;

4   said at least one other process resides in at least one other computer node; and

5   said first computer, second computer, and at least one other computer nodes are net-

6   worked together and are remote from each other.

1   6. (Original) A computer node, comprising:

2   a first process residing in said node that generates a first message that grants a set of

3   tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a second process that requested grant of

4   the set of tokens, the set of tokens being required for the second process to be able to modify

5   at least one characteristic of a file stored in computer-readable memory.

1   7. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2   each of the processes resides in a respective one of the computer nodes.

1   8. (Original) A node according to claim 7, wherein:

2   one of the processes resides in a server computer node and the other of the processes

3   resides in a client computer node.

1   9. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2   if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least

3   one token is currently granted to a third process, the first process also generates a second

4   message that revokes current grant of the at least one token to the third process prior to gen-

5   erating the first message.

1   10. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2   the first message is generated by the first process in response to a request for the grant

3   of the set of tokens generated by the second process, the request specifying all tokens re-

4   quired for the second process to be able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1   11. (Original) A computer node, comprising:

3

2   a first process residing in said node that generates a request to a second process for

3   grant of a set of tokens required to enable the first process to modify at least one characteris-

4   tic of a file residing in computer-readable memory.

1   12. (Original) A node according to claim 11, wherein:

2   the second process resides in a second computer node, and the memory is comprised

3   in said second node.

1   13. (Original) A node according to claim 11, wherein:

2   the set of tokens comprises all tokens required for the first process to be able to mod-

3   ify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1   14. (Previously presented) A network computer system, comprising:

2   a first computer node having a data file in computer-readable memory; and

3   a second computer node that issues to the first computer node a first message re-

4   questing grant of a set of tokens required to carry out a modification of at least one charac-

5   teristic of said file;

6   the first computer node issuing a second message to the second computer node after

7   receipt of the first message, the second message granting the set of tokens to the first process

8   if the set of tokens is available for grant to the second process.

1   15. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:

2   the first computer node is a server node, and the second computer node is a non-

3   server node.

1   16. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:

2   the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to carry out the modification of the at

3   least one characteristic of the file.

1   17. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:

2   if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for the grant because the at

3   least one token is currently granted, the first computer node waits to issue the first message

4   until after the first computer node receives a third message from a third computer node indi-

5   cating relinquishment of current grant of the at least one token.

1   18. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein:

2   the at least one token comprises a plurality of tokens.

1   19. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-

2   gram instructions, the instructions comprising:

3   first instructions which when executed permit a data file to be maintained in computer

4   storage memory;

5   second instructions which when executed generate a first message requesting grant of

6   a plurality of tokens required to modify at least one characteristic of said file; and

7   third instructions which when executed generate a second message, in response to

8   said first message, that grants said tokens if said tokens are available for grant to said second

9   process.

1   20. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-

2   gram instructions, the instructions comprising:

3   first instructions which when executed generate a first message that grants a set of

4   tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a requester of the set of tokens, the set of

5   tokens being required to permit the requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic

6   of a file stored in computer storage memory.

1   21. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-

2   gram instructions, the instructions comprising:

3   first instructions that when executed generate a request for grant of a set of tokens

4   required to enable modification by an issuer of the request of at least one characteristic of a

5   file residing in storage memory.

1   22. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to Claim 19, further com-

2   prising:

3   further instructions which when executed causes, if any of said tokens are unavailable

4   for grant as a result of current grant of said tokens, generation of a third message revoking

5   the current grant of said tokens.

1   23. (Previously presented) A computer-readable memory according to claim 22, wherein:

2   said further instructions, in response to said third message, generate a fourth message

3   making said tokens available for grant.

1   24. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, further com-

2   prising:

3   further instructions which when executed cause, if at least one token in the set of to-

4   kens is unavailable for grant because the at least one token is currently granted, generation of

5   a second message that revokes previous grant of the at least one token prior to generating the

6   first message.

1   25. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, wherein:

2   the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of tokens

3   generated, the request specifying all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one

4   characteristic of the file.

1   26. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 21, wherein:

2   the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one

3   characteristic of the file.

1   27. (Previously presented) A computerized data file system, comprising:

2   means for maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory; and

3   means for generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required

4   to modify at least on characteristic of said file;

5   means for generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants

6   said tokens if said tokens are available for grant.

1   28. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 27, further comprising:

2   means for generating, if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of cur-

3   rent grant of said tokens, a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens.

1   29. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 28, further comprising:

2   means for generating, in response to said third message, a fourth message making

3   said tokens available for grant.

1   30. (Previously presented) A computerized method for coherently maintaining and modifying

2   a data file, comprising:

3   maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory;

4   generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required to modify

5   at least one characteristic of said file; and

6   generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants said tokens

7   if said tokens are available for grant.

1   31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, further comprising:

2   if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of current grant of said to-

3   kens to at least one other process, generating a third message revoking the grant of said to-

4   kens.

1   32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein:

2   in response to said third message, a fourth message making said tokens available for

3 grant is generated.

1 33. (Previously presented) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a

2   data file, comprising:

3   generating a first message that grants a set of tokens, if the set of tokens is available

4 for grant, to a requester of the grant of the set of tokens, the set of tokens being required for

5 requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file.

1 34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein:

2   if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least

3 one token has been currently granted, the method also comprises a second message that re-

4 vokes current grant of the at least one token prior to generating the first message.

1 35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein:

2   the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of tokens

3 generated by the requester, the request specifying all tokens required for the requester to be

4 able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1 36. (Previously presented) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a

2   data file, comprising:

3   generating a request for grant of a set of tokens required to enable modification of at

4 least one characteristic of the file.

1 37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein:

2   the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one

3 characteristic of the file.